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**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF ALASKA**

ANTHONY L. BLANFORD and JOHN K.  
BELLVILLE,

Plaintiffs,

v.

MICHAEL J. DUNLEAVY, in his individual and  
official capacities; TUCKERMAN BABCOCK;  
and the STATE OF ALASKA

Defendants.

Case No. 3:19-cv-\_\_\_\_\_

**NOTICE OF REMOVAL**

COME NOW Defendants, Michael J. Dunleavy in his personal and individual capacity, Tuckerman Babcock, and State of Alaska (Defendants), by and through their attorneys, Clapp, Peterson, Tiemessen, Thorsness & Johnson, LLC, and hereby consent and remove the state court action captioned *Blanford and Bellville v. Dunleavy, Babcock and State of Alaska*, Case No. 3AN-19-04445CI filed in the Superior Court for the State

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of Alaska, Third Judicial District at Anchorage, to the United States District Court for the District of Alaska.

Plaintiffs allege a claim under 28 U.S.C. §1983. Therefore removal is made pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1443, 28 U.S.C. §1446, 28 U.S.C. §1331, 28 U.S.C. §1367, and 28 U.S.C. §1441.

## **I. THE REMOVED CASE**

On January 10, 2019 Plaintiffs Anthony Blanford and John Bellville filed this action against Defendants in the Superior Court for the State of Alaska, Third Judicial District at Anchorage, Case No. 3AN-19-04445CI.

Plaintiffs complain about employment issues, including allegations of a violation of their U.S. Constitutional First Amendment right, brought under 28 U.S.C. §1983. Plaintiffs also allege a violation of the Alaska Constitutional free speech right, and a violation of the covenant of good faith and fair dealing. All the claims arise from the same set of facts.

The Complaint states that Plaintiffs seek recovery of the following damages:

- Injunctive relief;
- Declaratory judgment;
- Reinstatement, back pay, front pay, benefits, and incidental loss;
- Punitive damages against the individually named Defendants;
- Costs and attorney fees; and
- Any other relief.

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## II. THE REMOVAL IS TIMELY

A copy of the Complaint was filed in state court on January 10, 2019. The State of Alaska and Governor Dunleavy in his professional capacity received a copy shortly thereafter. The undersigned will accept service for individual plaintiffs. Consent has been obtained from Governor Dunleavy in his individual capacity and Tuckerman Babcock in his individual capacity, and they affirm, through their attorneys, that they do not oppose the removal of the action to federal district court. Given that the complaint was filed January 10, 2019, and 30 days has not yet elapsed, this removal is timely filed within the 30 days after receipt of the Complaint. 28 U.S.C. §1446(b).

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§1443, 1441 and 1446, venue properly lies in the United States District Court for the District of Alaska because Plaintiffs allege a civil right claim under 28 U.S.C. §1983.

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1446(a), copies of all documents served upon Defendants in the state court action are attached hereto as Exhibit A.

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1446(d) Defendants filed a written notice of this removal with the Clerk of the Superior Court for the State of Alaska, Third Judicial District at Anchorage. Copies of this Notice of Removal and the notice of filing this Notice of Removal directed to the Clerk of the Superior Court for the State of Alaska, Third Judicial District at Anchorage are also being served upon Plaintiff as required by 28 U.S.C. § 1446(d).

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### **III. REMOVAL IS PROPER BECAUSE THIS COURT HAS ORIGINAL SUBJECT MATTER JURISDICTION**

This suit is a civil action under which this Court has original jurisdiction pursuant to the provisions of 28 U.S.C. §§1331, 1443 and 1441 because Plaintiffs allege a civil right claim under 28 U.S.C. §1983, which is federal question jurisdiction.

28 U.S.C. §1443 authorizes the Court to accept removal of a state court civil action when the claim arises under the U.S. Constitution or under federal laws. *Id.* 1443(c)(1)(A). 28 U.S.C. §1331 provides that “The district courts shall have original jurisdiction of all civil actions arising under the Constitution, laws, or treaties of the United States.”

The Court has supplemental jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1367 over Plaintiffs’ two state law claims, which arise from the same set of operative facts as the federal claim arises. The Court should exercise its supplemental jurisdiction in the interest of judicial economy, convenience, fairness and comity. The state law claims are not novel or complex issues of state law, they do not predominate over the federal claim, there has been no state court action to date in this case, and no exceptional or compelling reasons exist for the Court to refuse jurisdiction over the state law claims. Further, this is a civil action seeking relieve of more than \$100,000, as noted by the requirements for filing in State Superior Court.

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Nothing in this Notice of Removal shall be interpreted as a waiver or relinquishment of Defendants' right to assert any defense or affirmative matter. No answer has yet been filed in the state court.

#### **IV. CONCLUSION**

Defendants respectfully remove the state court action from the Superior Court for the State of Alaska and the Court should accept and order the removal of all claims against all parties.

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 6<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2019.

CLAPP, PETERSON, TIEMESSEN,  
THORSNESS & JOHNSON, LLC  
Attorneys for Defendant

By s/ Linda J. Johnson  
Linda J. Johnson, ABA No. 8911070

#### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that on this 6<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2019, a copy of the foregoing document was served via US Mail on:

Stephen Koteff, Esq.  
Joshua A. Decker, Esq.  
ACLU of Alaska Foundation  
1057 W. Fireweed Lane, Suite 207  
Anchorage, AK 99503

By: s/ Linda J. Johnson